

[English]

Kashmir Issue

6189. KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH :

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the newsitem under captioned "Kashmir Muddei Per Bharat-Pak Mein, Yuddh Sambhav-Cheen" published in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated April 3, 1997; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the decision proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report has no basis in fact.

Threat To Jantar Mantar

6190. LT. GENERAL (RETD.) PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of highrise buildings near Jantar Mantar in New Delhi will pose a grave threat to it;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any decision not to approve plans of high rise buildings near Jantar Mantar;

(c) the number of plans received by the Government in respect of construction of high-rise buildings near Jantar Mantar having proposed height of above 50 feet and the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The plans for high-rise buildings around Jantar Mantar are sanctioned as per the provisions of the Master Plan for Delhi, Building Bye-laws and guidelines of the Archeological Survey of India on the subject.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) NDMC has reported that presently no such plans are pending with them.

Indo Pak Trade Relation

6191. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken initiative to

enter into a dialogue with the new Government of Pakistan to explore the potential for trade between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) Government has consistently expressed its interest to expand commercial and economic relations with Pakistan for mutual benefit. Government has extended Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to Pakistan. Our views regarding the importance of expanding trade ties have been conveyed on many occasions to Pakistan. Government hopes that Pakistan will respond positively to our endeavours to expand commercial and economic relations.

Passport Applications

6192. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the passport office-wise number of applications received during 1995 and 1996 for seeking passports;

(b) the number of applications out of them which have been disposed of;

(c) the number of applications out of them which have been rejected for various reasons; and

(d) the total number of passports issued and the time by which the remaining passports are likely to be issued ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a), (b) and (d) A statement showing the number of applications received by various Passport Offices during 1995 and 1996, and the number of passports issued during these years, Passport Office-wise, is attached.

The applications pending at the end of 1995 continued to be disposed off in 1996. Similarly, those pending at the end of 1996 were disposed off during 1997. It is not possible to determine the exact date when each one of those applications was disposed off as disposal is an on-going exercise.

(c) Applications once received by the Passport Office are not rejected. In case the applications are complete in all respects and the Police clearance report is received, passports are granted. Some applications continue to pend because of either incomplete columns in the passport application form, deficiencies in supporting documents or receipt of incomplete police report of delay in the receipt of replies to references made to other passport issuing authorities. Therefore, the pending cases continue to be granted as and when the deficiencies are fulfilled. In case the applicant does not respond despite repeated reminders, the application is closed.

Statement

Statement showing the number of applications for seeking passports, received by various Passport Offices and number of passports issued during 1995-96

S.No.	Office	1995		1996	
		Number of Applications Received	Number of passports granted	Number of Applications Received	Number of passports granted
1.	Ahemadabad	105955	99089	126536	127760
2.	Bangalore	97741	95672	102248	105905
3.	Bareilly	36863	35880	36341	33394
4.	Bhopal	20297	20148	19697	18979
5.	Bhubaneshwar	6995	5309	7683	7029
6.	Bombay	223397	218043	222007	209835
7.	Calcutta	50045	47601	63883	62367
8.	Chandigarh	84608	103257	99379	98946
9.	Cochin	80686	80009	84710	83107
10.	Delhi	121389	106607	142804	140904
11.	Goa	15329	14220	15875	14279
12.	Guwahati	7486	6739	8335	8169
13.	Hyderabad	149422	142770	190722	176649
14.	Jaipur	52942	51893	48272	47441
15.	Jalandhar	69384	100743	95861	95667
16.	Kozhikode	133067	135892	140574	126400
17.	Lucknow	91266	99127	103497	90156
18.	Madras	117333	112475	140512	134158
19.	Nagpur	9541	9037	12107	11792
20.	patna	41156	38498	47159	44001
21.	Trichy	164577	139332	189516	191752
22.	Trivandrum	90432	83461	77106	73600
23.	Jammu	11457	8713	12531	10495
		1781368	1754515	1987355	1912785

Infrastructure Facilities in Various Sectors

6193. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the FINANCE Minister be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan for creating more infrastructure facilities in various sectors based on the latest technology in the country;

(b) if so, whether there are various avenues for attracting above 300 dollars of investment in the core sector of the country;

(c) if so, the details of efforts made or proposed to be made by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Government's development strategy attaches high

priority to the development of efficient infrastructure and recognise the fact that provision and maintenance of adequate infrastructure of facilities at reasonable cost are absolutely necessary for rapid economic growth on a sustained basis.

Given the competing demands of limited resources available with the Government, the creation of quality infrastructure will need infusion of private capital, including foreign investments. The procedures relating to foreign investment in the infrastructure sector have been further liberalised. Since December, 1996 the Government has allowed automatic approval for foreign equity participation upto 74 per cent in key infrastructure industries such as electricity generation and transmission, non-conventional energy generation and distribution, and construction activities in the area of roads, bridges, railbeds, ports and harbours.